

## Selecting The Best Snakeskins – copyright Michel Bruno



### MY STORY WITH SNAKESKINS

Since I began to keep guppies Snakeskins have been my favourites. I remember at the time it was not easy in my area to obtain quality Snakeskins.

I chose to keep a Yellow Mosaic Silver, and then the Red crossed with albinos obtained from Stephen Kwartler created the Albino Cobra line.

That was in 1999, since then, I kept these albino Snakeskins and other Snakeskins, the Mosaics acquired from Paul Bentin and Rodrigo Ziviani

A Half-Black Pastel Ribbon from Ayrton Carrieri, was obtained by the end of 2003.

In 2003, I bought the Red Lace Snakeskin strains (German Red Lace Snakeskin), Albino Red Lace Snakeskin (Albino German Red Lace Snakeskin) and filigree (Lace Snakeskin), creators Luke Roebuck and Gernot Kaden, respectively.

Later, I created in my fish house Red Ribbon Lace Snakeskin; I am now crossing my Red Lace Snakeskin females to Swallow Neon (Neon Tuxedo Blue Swallow) to create line of Red Lace Snakeskin Swallow. And I'm also crossing my Red Lace to albino females and female Swallow Neon Red Lace Ribbon to create strains of Albino Red, Albino Red Lace Ribbon and Lace Swallow.

Anyway, when I have the latter two strains stabilized, I will begin to select them to enhance their best qualities.

That was a bit of my history with Snake-skins, but I really wish to talk a little about breeding, colour pattern, Snakes and Snake-skin differences between Mosaic and Lace, etc.. especially the Delta Snakeskin lace.



### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SNAKES AND SNAKESKINS



The main difference is that Snakes have vertical bars on the body, thus making the pattern interrupted. For this reason the Snakes are no longer accepted in IFGA in class Solid Variegated Snakeskin and Snakeskin. The Snakeskins do not have vertical bars on the body.

#### **Cobra or Tiger**



Cobra or Tiger refers to guppies that have two to five vertical bars (Zebrinus) on the caudal peduncle. It originates from the standard designs and also the King Cobra is a confusing term, because in some regions of Brazil and Asia, it is used to describe what the world calls Snakeskin. The IFGA guppies that have eliminated the vertical bars on the caudal peduncle are classed as Variegated Snakeskin Snakeskin Solid. They will compete in their class color of the fins properly.

Most often, these fish have fins that are , but can also be found in strains with the lace or solid fins.

#### **Snakeskin**



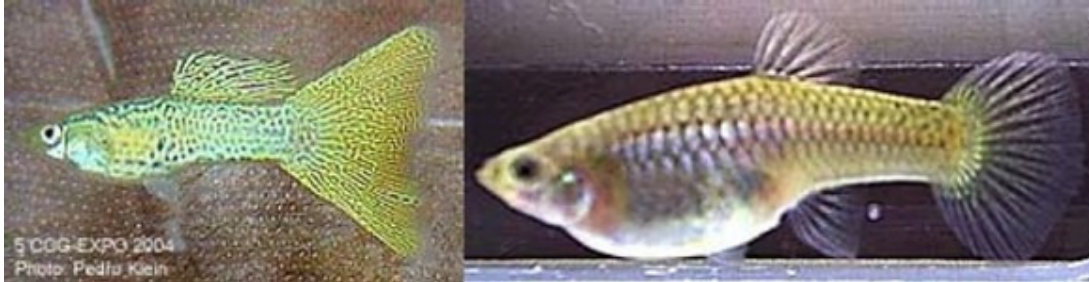


Snakeskin refers to guppies that have standard "connection links" or "rosettes form of" at least 60% of your body. These fish can be found with fins mosaic, lace or solid (Solid).

#### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LACE AND THE MOSAICS



#### Lace



Lace refers to a pattern of fine drawings in the fins. In Europe they call the fish with this characteristic filigree.

#### Mosaic or Mosaic



Mosaic refers to the fin-shaped mosaic, stained, draw or paint.

#### Solid



Solid refers to the fins of a pure colour, without drawing or painting. These fins are considered solid colour, so her name.

#### IFGA



The main classes for Delta Snakeskin Cobra that enter tournaments that follow the rules of IFGA are:

**Variegated Snakeskin**, can enter any snakeskin with the fins and not solid black eyes.

**Solid Snakeskin**, which can enter any snakeskin with fins and solid black eyes.

**AOC Albino**, which can enter any or snakeskin snake with red eyes or wine.

**AOC bicolor**, which can enter any snake with fins and two-tone black eyes.

**Multi**, which can enter any snake with fins with three or more colours, and black eyes.

The main classes whose females Delta (triangle), Shark Tail (shark) and Round Tail (round) IFGA enter championships are:

Female Gray & Gold, which can be any female Cobra Snakeskin and red eyes, black or wine and any basic colour.



Below I will write a bit about the creation and maintenance of strains Snakeskins competing in the championships that follow the rules of IFGA:

### Variegated Snakeskin



All Snakeskins are variegated, that is, they have fins of Mosaic Variegated lace are considered.

To keep the patchwork Snakeskin, one must cross the best male Snakeskin with pattern on the body and fins painted or stained to females with fins not solid, stained.

To keep the lace Snakeskin, one must cross the best male with Snakeskin patterns on the body and fins with more detailed with lace pattern as thin as possible and with no or little black spots (Spot Eye), the females with fins translucent and without spots.

In the rules and standards for judging IFGA, it says that the body and the back of the fish should be the same colour of the caudal. For this reason, the Lace Snakeskin has the advantage over other colour patterns of fins. For example, if one is competing with a Mosaic Lace Snakeskin, both getting the same score in size, shape, condition, behaviour and symmetry, the Lace has the edge over the colour question, because the values IFGA the fish with a more homogeneous colour. The Mosaic is stained or has spots and larger than the Lace designs, therefore, the Lace is considered more homogeneous colour. Look at a Lace Snakeskin from a distance and you will get the impression that the fish is all one colour.



Females with spotted fins generate Mosaic males. Females with translucent fins, generate males with Lace. Like Moscow's they were created from Metal Snakeskin, selecting females with spotted fins and less translucent and more solid colour.

Uniformity of colour in the fins and body is very important, that is, if the fish has fins yellow (Yellow), your body should preferably have a snakeskin pattern and all of a yellow tint only.



### **Solid Snakeskin**



To create and maintain solid snakeskin, one should also keep the lines Mosaic or Snakeskin Lace and a solid line with the fins, ie, the strains Green, Red, Blue, etc..

Usually the genes that produce the Snakeskin pattern on the body are on the male, or Y chromosome. The genes that produce the colour of the fins are solid in both sexes, but especially in females.

Knowing this, you must cross Snakeskin males to females not strong in Snakeskins. So you will have in F1 Snakeskin males with solid fins or almost solid. Basically, from there, you keep crossing solid Snakeskins to females who have the most solid fins, concerned always with males who are at least 60% Snakeskin pattern on the body, males with the colours of the dorsal and caudal more like possible, dorsal large and broad, large and wide open flow, etc..

Females with the fins and solid and homogeneous in colour, males produce the same characteristics. Females with spotted fins, the fins to generate males and females with spotted fins translucent fins generate males with fine Mosaic or Lace.

Remember that a uniformity of colour in the fins and body is very important, that is, if the fish has fins purple (Purple), your body should preferably have a purple snakeskin pattern or as close to this tone, and all the intensity and density only.

Investigate the patterns of shapes and sizes of IFGA to select their best players.

### **AOC Albino**



The solid and variegated Albino Snakeskins enter the AOC Albino class of IFGA.

For these albino strains are maintained, should be preferentially crossed with black eyed heterozygous males (patients with albino) females to albino (red eyes) or black eyed

males to females heterozygous for black eyes, also heterozygous. Thus, you will have a litter in the percentage of 50% and 25% of albinos, respectively. Avoid crossing the male with albino females because the strain tends to weaken more rapidly with each generation. This includes problems with fertility, size, etc..

#### **Snakeskin females**



Females of the best strains of Snakeskins do not have good-sized fins. For this reason, they have little chance of competing with larger fins of females of other strains. But be sure to compete, maybe their females are better than other competitors. Also be sure to select females with big fins, because I believe that these features do not hinder the growth of the fins of males.

#### **MY CREATION**



Below I will write a little about my genetics and ways to select the lines that currently I am holding in my greenhouse:

### Red Ribbon Lace Snakeskin



This strain was created by German breeders Herman Magoshitz and Detlef Samnet from crosses between females Moscow Red Lace Snakeskin (Metal Red Lace Snakeskin), the line of Detlef and Lace Snakeskin males.

It is known that this strain is extremely compatible with Metal Lace and the lace Snakeskins, or rather, this strain is Lace Snakeskin, but red.

Basically, to keep this line, you must select males with a great Snakeskin pattern, ie, with "connecting links" or "rosettes" around the body and preferably uninterrupted. The fins of the males must be both red and contain tiny black spots, thus making the lace pattern continue. Many males have the colour in the centre of the caudal yellow and red ends. To improve this, you must also select males with the flow and all red lace, select females with red fins and translucent but not only have the edges of the caudal red, but all of it.

Only females with selecting the centre of the caudal red translucent, males generated from it will flow all the red and lace.

Focus is also the colour combination of the caudal and dorsal of both sexes. Males and females should have the same colour as the dorsal caudal.

Do not forget that Snakeskins tend not to have large fins, so select the males with the largest and widest dorsally and with greater throughput and wider, that is, one should select males with the dorsal margin of three units of length for a unit width and the flow at the rate of one Delta unit length of the body for a unit length of flow and at least 60 degrees of openness, respectively.

This goes for all the strains Snakeskins, especially the lace.

Always wear ribbons females (longfins) to always generate the same 50% shortfins (no ribbons) and 50% longfins (ribbons). Before choosing the breeding, the best place in a container that you give to see them on top. Then select the ones that also have elongated pectoral fins.

The secondary colour, or colour between the "rosettes" and "connecting links" should be homogeneous and should not be red or purple tones. When selecting the female, select one that does not have the above part of the stalk or the stem red.





I noticed that when I choose females with red stems, they produce males with purple tones of the "rosettes" of the caudal peduncle. Thus the male loses the intensity of his snakeskin pattern.

Females with snakeskin pattern on the stalk can be crossed, but I'm not so sure if females are good or bad.

In some males of this strain, the flow has a flaw in the centre (style flow Lira) when young. But when older, the flow becomes Delta. To eliminate this problem the same, you should find a female that makes males not having this crash, because the gene defect that is present in females.



**Albino German Red Ribbon Lace Snakeskin**



The previous method also applies to this lineage. But for these albino strains are maintained, should be preferentially cross-eyed black heterozygous males (patients with albino) females to albino (red eyes) or cross-eyed black males to females heterozygous for black eyes, also heterozygous. So you will have a litter in the percentage of 50% and 25% of albinos, respectively.

Avoid crossing the male albino albino females because the strain tends to weaken more rapidly with each generation. This includes problems with fertility, size, etc..

## Lace Snakeskin

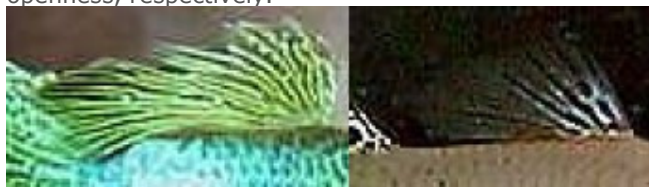


This strain originates from the creator Hans Großmann Dresden, Germany, but was being created by Gernot Kaden when I obtained.

This strain is excellent in the density (quantity) and intensity (brightness, homogeneity) of color, because the males are of one color and the pattern of snakeskin mouth at the end of the fins.

It is also excellent in the parallelogram shape of the ridge, the shape of the body and tail, the sleek snakeskin body pattern in the lace pattern of thin fins and body size in excellent, very difficult to find.

Basically, to keep this line, you must select the males with the above features, plus the dorsal large and broad in proportion of three units of a unit of length to width. Delta flow in proportion to a unit length of the body for a unit length of flow and at least 60 degrees of openness, respectively.



The backbone of both sexes should be in the form of parallelogram. I've never seen in any other format a range as good as the backbone of this lineage. Then I realized that selecting females with the back of this format, the guppies will also have generated very good shape. But if we select only females with the dorsal large, without regard to its format, we have males with dorsal rectangular and rounded edges, or formless.

Select the females that have the thick body, that is, short and thick. The caudal peduncle must have three units of length for two units wide. These males produce strong and the caudal peduncle too thick. Do not select those females long and thin.

I like to select the fish when they are sleeping because they are darker still and more.

Females, for example, have better colours on the body and fins when they are sleeping, therefore, it becomes easier to select one that has fewer spots on the fins and colours, and one that has snakeskin pattern on the caudal peduncle.

The best females are those that have fins and transparent without any colour or pattern.

These generate males with excellent colour in the fins.

They say that females produce snakeskin lace are the best they have to flow round or square. But I never noticed any change in my males, selecting or not, females with fins that format.

Basically, you must select the males for about eight months of age and females at around four months of age because the growth of fish of this variety is very slow.

If you want to fish tournaments, select them from this age to go to the shows because there are breeders who select the fish too early and when they are older humps, the back

has not grown as expected, the flow rate doubled, the fish does not support the weight caudal or other discarded fish is better than yours is selected, etc.. This happens too much. Remember that the same goes for all other strains.

#### **CROSS LISTED MORE outcross**



These are the main reasons to do outcross:

If you need to cross the male acquired in a show, for example, a female of another strain;

To create your own line;

When you hold the line does not produce the features you want (large fins, size, etc..)

Because the gene for this feature is not present in the lineage;

When you are having problems with a pure lineage, such as infertility, small size, etc.;

If you want to produce great fish hybrids to show.

But all these crossings should be considered first, know the consequences for the results of this outcross bloodlines. Therefore, I recommend reading the excellent article written by Midge Hill which is published on the website of IFGA, "How to outcross Guppy Strains" (<http://ppga.tripod.com/midgehilloutcross.html> ).

#### **Grass**



Most strains of grass have large fins and a pattern of spots very small and uniform. Crossing this variety to your fish, you can increase the overall size, especially their fins Snakeskins. If you are mosaic, you can also improve the standard of drawings in the fins, increase stamina, fertility, etc.. For that you must cross Snakeskins males to females and vice versa grass. From there, select the Snakeskins with the desired characteristics.



### **Galaxy**



The galaxies and the jellyfish were developed from lace Platinums Snakeskins and therefore are compatible to Snakeskins. Crossing this variety to your fish, you can increase the overall size, especially of the fins of your Snakeskins, increase stamina, fertility, etc.. For that you must cross males to females Snakeskins galaxies or jellyfish, and vice versa. From there, select the Snakeskins with the desired characteristics.

### **Snakeskin Metal**



The metal, as well as half-black snakeskin pattern covers the upper half of the guppy. For this reason, they are still Snakeskins and are great fish to produce larger, more resistant, etc.. Cross males to females Snakeskins Moscow Snakeskins and vice versa. From these crosses, select the fish with the desired characteristics.

### **White Albino Super**



They say I can not say with certainty that the crossing Snakeskins albino super white, the Snakeskins are strengthened, increasing the genetic variability and thus enhancing the strain.

This should all happen by talking super white albino tri-be recessive.

#### **Half-Black**



The half-black snakeskin pattern covers the lower half of the body of the guppy. Crossing Snakeskins to half-blacks, preferably O / b pastel Snakeskins are strengthened in the F2, since the half-blacks do not change the colour of Snakeskins, but can modify the shape of the fins. So, are great to increase the size, fertility, vigour, etc.. the lineage.

Cross males to females Snakeskins Half-Black. The F1 will be all of H / B Pastel, but with fins and stained with a little snakeskin pattern on the head. Cross brothers or sisters to the males to females Snakeskins original h / b F1 AOC Snakeskins and have higher quality.

#### **Other strains Snakeskin**



The best is when they are crossed outcross fish of the same variety but from different lineages. For example, the Lace Snakeskins Germans. The genetic variability increases in these crosses. This makes it easy to select, because you have more options, more combinations of genes, etc..

Try to leave the fish homogeneous colour, avoid crossing Snakeskins coloured and bicolour. Females tend not to have a lace body size very good, so they can be crossed to males mosaic to improve its size.

## CONCLUSION



I think the most important moment of creation is a selection of players. Follow a few rules and you choose the right.

In males eliminate those that are smaller, small, thin, fragile style, weak, thin, malnourished and

with the dorsal and caudal small, no matter how nice they may be. Remove the fish with disabilities in colour pattern, that is, coloured, stained, non-homogeneous colour, with large spots, rosettes and large deformations in general (the head, back arched bowl-shaped, flat head, hunchbacked, crooked, etc...)

Of those that remain, select the largest fish (large body and thick), with the best behaviour (good food and sexual appetite, perfect swimming, etc..) General appearance (dorsal steep, straight, steep flow, etc..) Format (flow angle wide angle throughput greater than equal to the angle, triangle-shaped, dorsal parallelogram, rounded at the tips do not dorsal and caudal, etc..) and colour pattern (coloured exterior fins, dorsal ends of the not-too-dark designs on the back and belly, dorsal matching the flow rate, etc..).

Of that group, select the top two males and two males with the best colour.

In females, delete the smaller, short, thin, thin, with thin caudal peduncle. Then remove the females with deformity in the body (head, back arched bowl-shaped, flat head, hump, pie, etc..) Fins and pattern of unwanted colour (coloured fins, opaque (if lace), half- black, iridescent, etc..) Then select the females with the best behaviour (good appetite for food, perfect swimming, etc..) General appearance, shape (stocky, fat body, caudal peduncle two units wide to three units long, broad and rounded caudal, dorsal large and parallelogram-shaped, etc..) and colour pattern (translucent fins (if lace), without spots, snakeskin pattern on the stem, etc..) **Of this group, select the top two females and two with better colour.**

I hope this article has clarified some issues and thus produce better Snakeskins.

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